





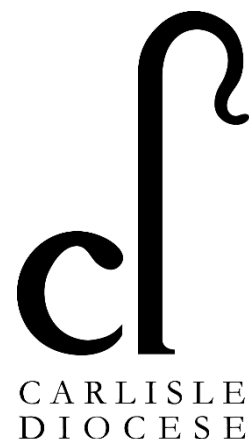
BARROW WOMBEL Overview

-  **Introduction** to the St James Barrow Bells Wombel – what it is, what it is for, who can use it, and who we have to thank.
-  **The Barrow Wombel Has cost £4,389.71**
(for details see the Wombel Financial Statement)
and there is further spending of £100 planned when funding allows.

The money spent to date has been generously donated by the following organisations:



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**



Introduction

Wombel Physical Description

The St James Barrow Bells Wombel is made up of four primary component groups plus a number of accessories

- 1) Wombel Simulator
- 2) Wombel Frame
- 3) Wombel Computer
- 4) Audio Visual Equipment
- 5) Accessories

The complete assembly stands just under 3.5m tall (11.5 ft), and 1.25m (W) x 1.75m (L) at the base (approx. 4ft x 6ft).

The **Wombel Simulator** is a Saxibly Wombel (one-bell) <https://www.saxsim.com/Wombel> wooden bell frame and wheel with two metal bell-shaped weight plates attached (one on each side) to the wheel, a bell rope, and a novel dowel and webbing bell stay mechanism. There are magnets on the rim of the wheel and a reed switch sensor on the frame with a USB adapter cable assembly that will plug into the **Wombel Computer** to send signals to the laptop when the bell is rung. More detailed description and illustrations are provided in the **Wombel Handbook**.

The **Wombel Frame** is a galvanised assembly that is transported flat packed, and assembled on its side on site, before being rotated into an upright position with at least 3 strong people.

The top of the frame is permanently attached to the Wombel simulator, and all the junctions (top and base) are labelled A to J for ease of assembly. There are 2 shelves for supporting the Wombel computer and speakers or other accessories.

Assembly of the Wombel is described in detail in the Assembly & Erecting Wombel section of the **Wombel Handbook**.



The **Wombel Computer** is an Acer Extensa 15 laptop with Windows 11 and 256 GB of storage, which includes a number of readily available videos such as the promotional videos released by the central council in the last 6 months. The laptop has ABEL software installed and ready configured for use to simulate ringing, and various office productivity and audio/video software to support presentations. The laptop also includes a footswitch, a mouse, a USB hub, and an external DVD drive. Full set of accessories are listed and described in the **Wombel Handbook**.

The **Audio-Visual Equipment** includes a projector, speakers, and 100" projection screen.

There are a number of **Additional Accessories** that can be loaned with Wombel to help with educational and recruitment events including full size wheel, stay, slider, clapper, bearings etc. and educational display panels.



PURPOSE

For public education and promotion of English style bell-ringing and all its associated facets; recruitment of lapsed and novice ringers; and for accessible training.

The 'Wombel' is a collapsable & transportable single bell simulator with audio-visual capability that is intended to support the following objectives in Furness, Westmorland, and beyond (CDGCBR & LACR):

- 1) General education about the traditional craft and heritage skill of bellringing.
- 2) Promotion of bellringing activities and benefits for individuals, community and parishes.
- 3) Recruitment to learn the skills and become a regular member of a bellringing team and district.
- 4) Dynamic training using the Wombel simulator and Abel software.

OBJECTIVES

- 🔔 To reach and engage with at least 100 members of the public annually (hopefully many more).
- 🔔 To be used at least 10 times annually by event organisers.
- 🔔 To recruit 1 or more lapsed or new ringer from each event, or expressions of interest to learn to ring in future (e.g. when presenting to primary or junior school age groups).
- 🔔 Support Pillar 1 of CCCBR Ringing 2030 related objectives:

Pillar 1: Publicity and Marketing – raise awareness of the art of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity.

Pillar 2: Recruitment and Development – encourage development of local and regional structures to recruit new ringers and attract lapsed ringers back to ringing...

Pillar 3: Quality Environment – teachers, bell installations, ringing environment...



Yorkshire Wombel used by all ages in our 2012 publicity event for St James Barrow Bell Restoration Project

BENEFITS

The St James Barrow Bells Wombel aims to provide greater outreach into the community and support recruitment to increase the number of people of all backgrounds participating in the social and skilful heritage activity of bell ringing. The benefits described here may also assist when promoting events involving the Wombel on social media and local press/radio.

For a variety of reasons, it can frequently be a challenge to get individuals or groups of people to *visit a church* to learn about bellringing, the history and heritage, the mechanics, the skills, the healthy physical and mental activity, the social scene, and to take up change ringing as a fulfilling hobby.

One significant distinguishing factor and advantage of the Wombel is that it can be taken apart and transported using a larger hatchback/estate car that has roof bars, to engage the general public at venues away from church, on the 'home turf' of youth and community groups, civic centres and town halls, schools, shopping centres and other public spaces.

It can be used locally or across CDGCBR and LACR to demonstrate and invite participation of members of the public, often in conjunction with a presentation about all the facets of bellringing:

- 🔔 **DIRECT RECRUITMENT:** Many towers are struggling to recruit, with some ringers not returning after covid restrictions withdrawn, and others reluctant to venture out or come to a church to find out more. Many towers now have no regular bellringing sessions or too few bellringers, and recruitment is essential to reinvigorate and restore ringing, and continue to maintain ringers at a sustainable level for future resilience. This Wombel will allow us to reach out to people who would otherwise not consider bellringing as a pastime, and should help recruit people to strengthen the team of ringers in their locality. This may integrate with Ringing 2030 campaign that is under development by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) – see the CCCBR Ringing 2030 section in Further Reading
- 🔔 **HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT:** More members of the public will learn about the heritage of bellringing – both history and mechanics of the art of bellringing and how we can interact and participate in a heritage activity. Bellringing has a dynamic and exciting mechanical arrangement that few people know much about, and Wombel demonstrations and presentations will educate and myth-bust.
- 🔔 **SKILLS EDUCATION:** Bellringing is an intrinsically skilful activity, and presentations along with *interactive* demonstrations and recruitment will inform and teach these skills. It would be good to think as a result of using Wombel to promote bellringing, that members of the public will be more appreciative of the skill involved when they hear bells. The public often find an event more memorable when they get the opportunity to 'have a go' (under close supervision) which can now be done at their venue.
- 🔔 **PROMOTION:** Bellringing is an inclusive physical and mental activity that helps keep minds sharp and active, while also involving some physical activity. A team activity with a great social aspect where people make lifelong friendships and enjoy social gatherings inside and outside bellringing. When visiting places or moving home, ringers can also expect a warm welcome at towers across the UK and abroad in places where they ring with the English tradition. All can contribute to positive wellbeing.
- 🔔 **INDIRECT EDUCATION AND RECRUITMENT:** Presentations with the Wombel can help raise awareness and plant a seed even in those that have no intention to learn immediately. They may respond more favourably to a future recruitment campaign or at least help indirectly pass on more informed comment about the heritage skills to friends, relatives, and colleagues/peers.
- 🔔 **COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** Recruitment and continued training should improve the number of bellringers and the standard of ringing in the medium to long term, making bellringing more rewarding for the ringers and enjoyable to listen to by the community (practice, services, weddings + special occasions).

AVAILABILITY AND RESTRICTIONS FOR USE

The St James Barrow Bells Wombel can be requested for events held in Westmorland and Furness, and also by the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR) and Carlisle Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (CDGCBR). This extends to branches and individual member towers of the LACR and CDGCBR. Other requests from outside this area will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The applicant will initially need to provide loan details (explained in the **Wombel Handbook**) to enquire about the availability of the Wombel for their event, bearing in mind that generally they will also need to collect and return the Wombel and get approval for their event from their guild/association beforehand. Note: there may be scope for the event organiser to claim travel expenses – typically fuel on receipted claim – if they are eligible (e.g. LACR restricts to recruitment events, whereas others may cover educational presentations that are not *directly* targeting recruitment).

Before the event the responsible person will also need to provide signed form declaring assurances for Risk, Safeguarding, Public Liability, and Responsibility.

There are restrictions and rules for use of the Wombel laptop – please see the Wombel Handbook which has a section for Wombel Laptop - Login and Rules for Basic Operation.

Where possible a donation toward the maintenance and replacement of the Wombel will be encouraged after the event on return of the Wombel. Currently this is £35 or more (ideally £50) which can often be recouped by a small (e.g. £1) donation from each audience member or person who ‘has a go’. This money is paid into the tower account and ring fenced for use on Wombel. Donations can help secure the Wombel for future events.

Further Reading

RINGING

CCCBR Ringing 2030

2030

CCCBR Website - <https://cccb.org.uk/ringing-2030/>